

Yarnall-Hibberd House (Plumsock)
West side of Plumsock Road, .2 mile south
of Goshen Road (LR 15098)
Whitehorse Vicinity (Willistown Township)
Chester County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-182

HABS
PA,
15-WHIHO.V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-182

YARNALL-HIBBERD HOUSE

(PLUMSOCK)

PA,
15-WHIHO.V,
1-

Location: Southwest of County Road #15098 and Plumsock Road, Willistown Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. (Reference: Map of Chester County /by County Commissioners/ 1956).

Present Owner: Evelyn L. Lutz, Newtown Square, Pa.

Brief Statement of Significance: The original portion of this house, probably erected very early in the eighteenth century, provides a good example of the two-room stone farm houses, with corner fireplaces, built during this period.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Francis Yarnall had patent for 400 acres 1703, and sold messuage and 150 acres 1708 to John Cadwalader; who sold 1711 to Thomas James; whose 1752 will left to widow Mary James; who sold 1753 to John Hibberd; who sold same year to Benjamin Hibberd, a brother; who sold 1774 to Joseph Hibberd; who sold 1784 to Caleb Hibberd; whose 1826 will left it to Wm. Hibberd; who sold 1842 to son, Wm., Jr.; whose widow sold 1858 to Thomas Cox; who sold 1867 to Bennett Cox; who sold 1880 to Steel family; who sold 1927 to W. C. Hunnemanns, Jr.; who sold 1929 to M. R. Marston; who sold 1935 to Girard Trust Co.; who sold 1943 to D. D. Odell; who sold 1945 to J. B. B. Parker; who sold 1952 to B. Bromley; who sold 1953 to R. M. Nichols; who sold 1953 to the present owner, Evelyn L. Lutz.
2. Date of erection: Early 18th century.
3. Architect, builder, suppliers etc.: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction etc.: Original plans not known. House consisted of two rooms on first floor and two rooms on second floor, corner fireplaces, and stairs on opposite wall.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: First section to west was added ca. 1780's; a stair was put in the northwest corner of the section and the original stairs in first section removed. In recent years the partition between rooms on first floor has been removed and a room added to the south of the second section. Corner fireplace was removed in north room of oldest section.
6. Important old views and references:
Views: None known.

References: Sources of information, to be found in the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa. - Classified printed and manuscript files under the headings: Willistown Township Lands.

Gilbert Cope: Genealogy of the Sharpless Family. Dando Printing and Pub. Co., Philadelphia 1887.

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Tract was taken up in 1703 by patent to an English Quaker. When it was first sold in 1708 there was already a house on it. The present house could date from the very early 18th century and was the home of the Hibberd family for over one hundred years; they were tanners.
- C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: None known.

Prepared by Bart Anderson - August 1958
Curator, Chester County Historical Society

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

- 1. Architectural Character: The structure, though well preserved, has been altered somewhat and a wing added to the west of the original house.
- 2. Condition of Fabric: Very good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

- 1. Overall dimensions: Structure is two-and-one-half stories; original house ca. 15' by 28'.
- 2. Foundations: Stone.
- 3. Wall construction: Stone.
- 4. Chimneys: Original.
- 5. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: Original.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Window openings seem original; one has been altered. Shutters are replacements.
- 6. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Steep pitch, wood shingle roof.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Pent eaves replaced; original bargeboard.
 - c. Dormers: None.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plans: Original house had simple plan of two rooms, one to north, one to south with corner fireplaces; stairs were on opposite, west, wall. Addition to west had similar plan; stairs there had originally been in chimney wall, west, but were later straightened, coming out into the room. Original section stairs were removed.
2. Stairways: See "Floor Plans" above.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster. Older section has open beamed ceiling.
4. Doorways and doors: Mostly original.
5. Trim: Mostly original.
6. Hardware: Mostly original.
7. Lighting: Modern electricity.
8. Heating: One corner fireplace removed for flues of heating plant.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: House faces south with general farm background plus some modern plantings.
2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: Nothing old.
4. Walks, driveways etc.: None.
5. Landscaping, gardens etc.: Well planted.

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